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Amherst police plan keg crackdown

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Created 09/25/2009 - 05:00

amherst local news

AMHERST - A crackdown on illegal possession of kegs of beer will take place this weekend in Amherst and at the University of Massachusetts.

Amherst Police Chief Scott Livingstone said Wednesday that both Amherst and UMass officers will be looking for unlicensed kegs being purchased at area package stores or being brought to parties in town or on campus.

Those caught with an unlicensed keg are subject to a \$200 fine.

Livingstone said residents who want to buy a keg of beer for consumption in Amherst must come to the police station and fill out a form listing the people who live where the keg will be taken. Capt. Mike Kent then interviews those people. This allows the department to make sure those applying for keg permits have not had previous run-ins with the law.

"If there are no problems in the past, we will typically issue the permit," Livingstone said.

Even if only one unlicensed keg is found at a home, each resident is subject to the \$200 fine.

In fiscal 2008, the town issued \$200 tickets to 25 people. The money goes to the town's general fund.

Livingstone said the fines are a way to change behavior. "Part of this is education; part of this is enforcement," he said.

While local stores aren't required to make sure kegs are licensed, many of them offer customers information about the keg-licensing bylaws in Amherst and Hadley.

Livingstone said marked and unmarked cruisers will be sent out during the enforcement. Some may follow vehicles back to residences to determine if the keg has, in fact, been registered.

Police will also be looking for people loading too much alcohol into vehicles.

Police generally do one enforcement action specific to kegs each semester, Livingstone said.

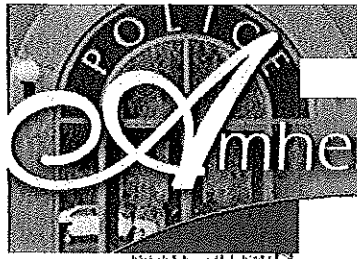
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Amherst Police Department

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Short Term Keg Permit

Information on obtaining a short term keg permit

Since 1991 the Town of Amherst has required a permit for the possessions of kegs of beer. This was enacted to protect the health and welfare of our community. The permit is for one day and one keg only, and can only be obtained at the Amherst Police Department. The link below is the application that one must file at the Amherst Police Department at least two days before an event to be considered for a permit. Part of the application process is having a meeting with the Captain in Charge of Operations, Captain Michael R. Kent. If your application is not received in a timely manner, scheduling an appointment time is difficult and your request will be denied. Please download the application below and bring it to the Amherst Police Department. For information on this process, you may either call 413-259-3000 for an immediate response or send us an [email](#).

[Keg Permit Application](#)



**TOWN OF AMHERST
KEG LICENSE**

CC: Police

To the Licensing Authorities:

Date: _____

The undersigned hereby applies for a *Short-Term Keg License* in accordance with the provisions of the Town of Amherst Keg Licensing Bylaw:

NAME: _____
(Resident homeowner or resident lessee - nontransferable)

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ SOCIAL SECURITY or PASSPORT #: _____

PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION USED: _____
(Must be a valid photo identification)

RESIDENCE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

TERM: _____ # of Kegs: _____
(Date of event)

PREMISES TO BE LICENSED: _____

CONTACT PERSON/TEL. #: _____
(If licensee does not reside at premises to be licensed)

RESTRICTIONS ON SHORT-TERM KEG LICENSES

1. Licensee must be 21 years of age or older.
2. The term of the license shall be determined by the Police Chief.
3. Only the licensed number of keg(s) shall be kept on the premises.
4. License must be available for inspection at all times.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER FOR LONG-TERM KEG LICENSES

By exercising the privileges of this license in serving persons with alcoholic beverages, the licensee is potentially exposed to significant liability for injuries and damages to the persons served or to others who are injured or damaged by the persons served. Your acceptance and exercise of this license will be deemed to be acknowledgement that you are aware of this potential liability. You are encouraged to discuss the risks associated with exercising your privileges of the license and the precautions appropriate to avoid injuries, damage and liability to others with your legal advisor. The Town of Amherst, and the Select Board as Local Licensing Authority, shall not be liable to the licensee or others if injury or damage shall result from the exercise of the license.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Recommended/Not Recommended: _____ / _____
Police Chief Date

Licensing Authority Approval: _____ / _____
Date

Keg Licensing General Policies

(These general policies apply to both the Short-Term and Long-Term Licenses.)

1. Applications will be available at the Town Hall and the Police Station during regular business hours.
2. Applicant must appear in person at the Police Station for an orientation regarding the keg licensing bylaw and an understanding of the M.G.L. Ch. 138 regarding the dispensing and consumption of alcohol and to have any questions answered.
3. The Select Board has delegated the licensing authority to the Town Manager.
4. The Town Manager may grant the license provided the following occur:
 - a. Application is properly completed and submitted to the Amherst Police Chief.
 - b. Valid photo identification is presented to the Amherst Police Chief.
 - c. A recommendation is given by the Amherst Police Chief.

The Police shall consider the following factors:

 1. Does the applicant have a criminal record.
 2. Does the applicant have a record of alcohol related convictions, arrests, complaints.
 3. Is there reason to believe beer will be sold.
 4. What controls will be established to prevent consumption by underage persons.
 5. Is there a record of alcohol related complaints under present occupancy at the site of the event.
 6. Are the size of the site and its parking and sanitary facilities adequate.
5. All license holders must be 21 years of age or older.
6. The license will be issued within 7 working days.
7. No fee shall be charged for the license.
8. The application, once approved, will become the license. The Town of Amherst will retain a copy.
9. A denied application may be appealed to the Select Board.
10. The Town will provide information about the keg bylaw and policies to the local liquor stores, the general public, and the colleges and universities for the purpose of orientations regarding the keg bylaw and policies.

Additional Policies for Short-Term Licenses

(For the purpose of special events and/or parties.)

1. The term of the license shall be determined by the Police Chief.
2. Only the licensed number of keg(s) shall be kept on the premises.
3. License must be available for inspection at all times.

Additional Policies for Long-Term Licenses

(For the purpose of maintaining a keg under proper refrigeration within the residence.)

1. The licensed premises must be the same as the residence of the applicant.
2. The term of the license is one year from date of issue.
3. License must be available for inspection at all times.

These policies shall become effective April 13, 1992.

Amherst Select Board